FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 DECEMBER 1980

American Hostages

Raja'i Comment--Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i told a group of diplomats on 27 December that the United States is using the hostages as a "pretext" to maintain its influence in Iran and is not interested in securing their release. According to Tehran radio's Arabic service, Raja'i said the U.S. Government has three choices: to accept Iran's terms, giving financial guarantees to Algeria and returning all of Iran's assets; to return part of Iran's assets over which there is no dispute and to resolve the other disputed claims through legal channels while Iran continues to hold the hostages; or to continue to plot against Iran and cooperate with Iraq in the Gulf war. The prime minister added that the United States does not seem interested in speeding up the negotiations to find a solution to the hostages issue. In the radio's English service version of his remarks, Raja'i said that Iran has "no difficulty" holding the hostages until the United States agrees to its terms, adding that the hostages "will be kept in good condition."

Nabavi Interview--In a Tehran radio interview, Minister of State Behzad Nabavi said that the United States has tried to "pull the wool over our eyes" by offering "100 pages of paper" in exchange for the hostages and then hoping that Iran will forget its claims and frozen assets. Saying that Iran cannot "bargain" over its wealth like this, Nabavi stressed that Iran needs "acceptable guarantees" to implement the Majlis conditions for the release of the hostages.

Trial Deadline--Demonstrators in Tehran celebrating a Muslim feast day called on the Iranian Government to set a deadline for the United States to agree to Iran's conditions for the release of the hostages. In their resolution, reported by AFP, the demonstrators urged that the hostages be quickly brought to trial if the United States does not meet the deadline.

Afghan Protest in Tehran

Hundreds of Afghan Refugees demonstrated outside the Soviet and Afghan embassies in Tehran on 27 December, AFP reported, protesting the Soviet invasion and continued occupation of Afghanistan. While Tehran radio claimed that revolution guards and police "thwarted" an attempt by the demonstrators to enter the Soviet Embassy, a TASS report headlined "outrageous provocation" said that "hooligan-type elements" and "thugs" forced their way into the embassy's reception area, causing "considerable material damage." TASS further reported that the Soviet Foreign Ministry on 28 December made a "resolute protest" to Iran over the incident, charging that "raging elements ... grossly violated" the embassy, threatening the lives of embassy personnel and insulting the Soviet flag.

Citing the protest note, TASS also reported that "only after numerous and insistent demands" by the Soviet ambassador did Iranian authorities act to eject the demonstrators. Calling the occupation a "glaring violation ... extraterritoriality." The note held Iran responsible for damage to the embassy and urged Iran to consider "appropriate measures" to protect the Soviet Union's "lawful interests." Tehran radio noted the Protest without comment but later reported that Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani, in a speech to the Majlis, accused the Soviet Union itself of being responsible for the attack on its embassy and defended the actions of the revolution guards and police in preventing the occupation of the embassy.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Khomeyni Speech--Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni appealed to Khuzestan Arab tribesmen to ignore plots intended to split them from their Persian brothers and urged them to unite under the "flag of Islam" and "monotheism." In his speech to the tribesmen, reported by Tehran radio, Khomeyni warned against false nationalistic appeals by Iraq and the superpowers who seek to divide Muslims, plunder and destroy their wealth.

In a sharp rebuttal, an Arabistan (Iraqi name for Khuzestan) spokesman, cited by Baghdad radio's Voice of the Masses, characterized Khomeyni's remarks as a distortion and an attempt "to escape the mounting wave of indignation" among the Iranian people over the war. Saying that the "charlatan of Qom" is trying to decive the world into believing that harmony exists among the Arabistan tribesmen, the spokesman declared that Khomeyni is fabricating lies as a "last resort" to preserve the Islamic revolution.

Khomeyni Warning--In another speech reported by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Khomeyni stressed the need for all officials, including the president, prime minister and others, to "wake up," "cease their hostility" toward each other and meet the tests imposed by the war with Iraq. Khomeyni called on these officials to declare a "cease-fire" in their personal disputes and get on with the war.

Military Conflict--Tehran radio reported Iranian helicopters in action around Ahvaz and Khuninshahr, attacking Iraqi armored vehicles and entrenchments. Further fighting continued on the Abadan-Mahshahr axis, the radio said, along with artillery exchanges on the Sumar, Zahab and Qasr-e Shirin fronts. In a series of communiques carried by Baghdad radio, the Iraqi General Command reported sustained fighting in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region with heavy Iranian losses as well as further clashes around Abadan, Ahvaz and Dezful.

Iraq

Iraq and Turkey signed an agreement to enlarge the Kirkuk-Yuimurtalik oil pipeline, increasing its capacity from 35 million tons to 45-50 million tons annually. Ankara radio reported that the agreement came at the end of 2 days of talks between Iraqi and Turkish officials in Ankara.

Israel

Yitzhaq Moda'i has resigned as communications minister but has still retained the energy and infrastructure portfolio. Reporting that the Cabinet accepted Moda'i's resignation, Jerusalem radio indicated that the minister's decision resulted from difficulties arising in implementing the government's proposal to establish a communications company and a postal authority. The radio said sources close to Moda'i revealed that the minister believes some officials are impeding the establishment of the postal authority.

Syria

Following a Damascus radio report that Progressive National Front Central Command member Darwish az-Zuni was assassinated on 27 December by "the gang of murder and treason," the newspaper TISHRIN accused the Jordanian monarchy of being "closly linked" with "remnants of the routed gangs" that have returned to using assassination as a political weapon. The newspaper ATH-THAWRAH also warned Jordan that its alleged support for Az-Zuni's assassination "will not pass unpunished." Damascus radio reported an "impressive procession" attended Az-Zuni's funeral including Ba'th Party Assistant Secretary General 'Abdallah al-Ahmar and Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm.

Lebanon

After several armed clashes in Zahlah over Christmas, Beirut radio and the Voice of Lebanon radio reported a gradual relaxation of tension in the city following a 26 December cease-fire agreement. Both radios also reported shooting in Beirut. The Voice of Lebanon radio revealed that an anti-Iraqi organization claimed responsibility for attacks on the French Embassy in the capital.

Afghanistan

National Fatherland Front--Kabul radio reported that a conference of "national patriotic forces" authorized a supreme elected commission to begin organizing the founding congress of a "national fatherland front" due to be held in 1981. The front will be broad based, including, among others, "national capitalists" and ulema.

Karmal Speech--According to TASS, DRA leader Babrak Karmal told the conference that the fatherland front will unite all classes and patriotic forces while the PDPA will be its "vanguard political force." Kabul radio noted that Karmal went on to stress the government's "honor, observance and defense" of Islam and its role in helping the clergy fulfill their duties. The government, Karmal said, has decided to establish a Department of Islamic Affairs and, under the aegis of a Supreme Religious Council, will take more heed of shrines, mosques and rituals. Karmal also announced a new draft law on military conscription.

Egypt

In speeches, statements and interviews reported by Cairo radio, President Anwar as-Sadat reaffirmed Egyptian support for the Afghan mojahedin and pledged to supply antitank and antiaircraft weapons to the guerrillas. As-Sadat also warned the mojahedin against involvement in "Arab and Islamic differences."

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NOTE: Daily Report No. 250 was not published on 26 December 1980 because of the holiday declared for U.S. Government employees that date by Executive Order.

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KARMAL OUTLINES DOMESTIC, FOREIGN POLICY, GOALS

LD282352 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 0615 GMT 27 Dec 80

[Speech by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister of the DRA, presumably at the conference of national and patriotic forces in the Salam Khanah Hall of the palace in Kabul--presumably live]

[Text] [Intercepted in progress] Providing the necessary conditions for the creative work of all classes of intellectuals is regarded as one of our important duties. One of the large groups of intellectuals is the teachers and lecturers group. In their first congress, in a free atmosphere, they considered their problems and looked forward to their solution.

The teachers, as resolute patriots equipped with the weapon of wisdom, expressed their full support for the revolutionary changes in the country and for the new stage of development of the Sawr Revolution. They promised the PDPA and the entire people of Afghanistan that they would not desist from any effort or endeavor to enhance public and professional knowledge, the level of education of the masses of the people, or the training of the young generation in [words indistinct] and loyalty to the revolution and the homeland. A large number of patriotic teachers, including party nonmembers, gave a positive reply to the voice of their conscience, and with arms in hand are defending the gains of the revolution. [applause]

You are aware that the representatives of the various sectors of our intellectuals--journalists, writers, artists and so on--have found it possible to establish their unions. This makes it possible for intellectuals not only to consider and solve problems and queries in connection with their profession freely, broadly and in a democratic manner, but to unite their energies in revolutionary thought and to familiarize the broad masses of the people with scientific, cultural, literary and artistic values.

Our patriotic youth, united in the ranks of the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan [DYOA] have an immense share in the defense of the gains of the Sawr Revolution. These youths, on the order of their conscience and the voice of their hearts and minds, go heroically to the most difficult battlefronts where the fortune of the revolution is being determined. They voluntarily fight against the murderous gangs and take part in maintaining peace in towns and villages. A while ago, approximately 200 of these courageous youths went to Kerker mine and helped produce coal to keep their families warm in the winter. [applause]

The youths are engaged in a broad task of publicizing and propagating party and government policy, uncovering the lies of imperialism and other enemies of the revolution. We have no doubt that the DYOA will continue to fulfill (?its responsibilities) for the realization of the revolutionary changes and the building of a new life in this society.

It has been announced that the Basic Principles of the DRA on the equal rights of women have been altered so that the care of working women and mothers is a principle aspect of government policy. Only a month ago, in this hall, the first comprehensive conference of women was held. The participants at the conference invited all women to take a more active part in the general struggle against the internal and external counterrevolutionaries and in uniting and consolidating the progressive forces of Afghanistan. The Democratic Women's Organization of Afghanistan [DWOA] regards as one of its principle duties the realization of measures to absorb more women in the task of social production and to secure their rights in work as a precondition of economic independence and equality in all social sectors. We are confident that the pure, noble and honorable women of Afghanistan, as mothers, sisters and daughters of the country, in uniting with the DWOA, will not withhold any energy in the realization of the objectives of the Sawr Revolution. [applause]

The DRA is an independent state and democracy of all the Muslim and toiling people of the country. [applause] In our country the honor, observance and defense of the sacred religion of Islam has been secured in practice and the freedom to observe religious ceremonies has been guaranteed for all Muslims. [applause]

The government has taken on the responsibility of helping and cooperating in the patriotic activities of the ulema and the clergy in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities. The leading authorities of the DRA, in view of the importance and great role of Islam, the clergy and the patriotic ulema in the life of our society, have decided to establish a department of Islamic affairs under the aegis of the prime ministry.

With the completion of the work to create the supreme council of the ulema and clergy of Afghanistan, the government will be able to better observe interests and care more for the preservation of shrines and other sacred places, and the observance of hajj rituals and to take care of mosques and preaching centers. [applause] The Sawr Revolution is a strong manifestation of the determination of the Muslim people of Afghanistan to secure full social justice.

Today we are [words indistinct] in this great hall the estemmed representatives of the ulema, clergy, priests and our noble imams, who have actively taken part in the task of defending the Sawr Revolution, in the task of uncovering the poisonous agents of imperialism and reaction who under their false names (?have taken up positions), and of defending the beloved homeland. We have gathered with other representatives of other toiling people; they will give a tooth-aching reply to the conspiracies of the enemies who want to cultivate the seeds of discord among the united family of Afghanistan, whether Shi'ite or Sunni.

Dear compatriots, on the parallel issues of legality and the democratic rights of the individual, which have been guaranteed by the Basic Principles of the DRA, and service to the people and service in the ranks of our heroic armed forces to defend the homeland, the territorial integrity of the country, the independence and national sovereignty of Afghanistan and the achievements of the revolution; and the interests of the toilers, it is the most lofty, the most honorable and the most sacred duty of the citizens of the DRA. Therefore, the new draft law on military conscription is at hand. In this law, in accordance with the Basic Principles, the new duties of the DRA Armed Forces are clearly defined. The new law will help to further strengthen our new armed forces, the army of our toiling people, the army of our patriots, the army of revolutionary heroes and courageous Afghan internationalists. [applause]

The law decree on emblems and medals is another step toward the further enhancement of the high position of the liberating Afghan Armed Forces and other national patriotic elements and proud heroes of the country; the presentations will begin on the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the establishment of the DRA.

Esteemed representatives, our party and government, while implementing their vital duties in the construction of the country, have paid and are paying serious attention to the related questions of the international stand of Afghanistan, the development of contacts, foreign relations and the initiation of new, creative, and peaceful proposals.

The most important political event for us on the international scale after the victory of the new stage of the Sawr Revolution was the visit of our high-ranking leading party and government delegation to the USSR and the successful conclusion of our talks in Moscow. The importance of these talks is higher than the framework of the present moment [as heard] and in some areas it transcends the framework of bilateral relations. During the talks and discussions, which were held in an atmosphere of cordiality, friendship and mutual understanding, the Soviet side declared that the people of Afghanistan, as before, could rely on the support of the Soviet people in their struggle for the construction of a new society and the defense of their revolution. [applause] At this moment the agreements reached during the visit are already being put into practice and have been filled with new and specific contents; they are having their positive effect on the situation in the region and on the position of the DRA in the world.

The most important duties of the DRA in its foreign policy, as before, are to be nonaligned, independent and loyal to the UN Charter, to struggle against the strengthening of international tension by the aggressive imperialist and warmongering forces, to work for the strengthening of peaceful coexistence and detente and for the cessation of the arms race. [applause]

It should be said that the DRA is reaffirming its readiness for a peaceful and democratic solution of the regions disputed issues and unsolved problems in the interest of the people of all countries of the region and of peaceful cooperation.

The DRA highly appraises the visit to India by L.I. Brezhnev [applause], general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and joins in approving the decisions made in the course of this visit toward the consolidation of peace and security in the world and the region. We are confident that the results of this visit will create broad prospects and possibilities for the peaceful and democratic settlement of some issues of the world and in the region which have recently become more tense. It must be recalled that the DRA has many times in the past proposed that the problems existing in relations between Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran be settled by peaceful talks, without any terms and conditions, based on accepted international measures and, furthermore, with mutual respect to the sovereignty of the respective governments. The DRA has extended the hand of friendship many times to the Governments and the people of Pakistan and Iran, and has made efforts to make use of every opportunity for staging constructive talks with the official circles of the neighboring countries, but, unfortunately, we have not received, up to now, a clear reply to our proposals from the Governments of Pakistan and Iran. Making use of this opportunity, we once again ask the Governments of Pakistan and Iran to sit around a negotiating table and solve the problems which separate us from one another by peaceful, political means. [applause] A further delay in these negotiations will only result in further tension in the region and will cause unnecessary sacrifices and complications.

Esteemed representatives, the DRA, with full confidence, is looking to its glorious future. We, by coordinating all out efforts, with the unity of patriotic and national forces, will eliminate the present problems and difficulties and are constructing a just and prosperous society in our ancient homeland.

At the end of my speech I declare with a strong and powerful voice, with a fearless and relentless voice, with a confident and revolutionary voice, that we consider it shameful to hide our viewpoints and aims. [applause] We say that the national and social liberating revolution of the heroic and toiling people of Afghanistan is moving steadily forward toward imminent and resolute victories. [applause] As a result, we will uproot from their foundations all the remnants of reaction and tyranny, colonialism and imperialism, cruelty and despotism, terror and savagery, and the strangulation and exploitation of man by man. [applause] Consequently, the revolution will reach its lofty humane goal, that is, true social justice. [applause] Let all our enemies, all servants of the black reaction, imperialism and hegemonism, shake because of our revolution. [applause] Let them cry hysterically and savagely and let them rant and rave. [applause] The great masses of the people of the free and revolutionary Afghanistan will not give up their (?struggle) against backwardness and [word indistinct]. They are imminently and resolutely attaining a new society, a society of justice and worship and prosperity. [applause] Let the DRA national fatherland front flag be hoisted. [applause] The unity of all the heroic residents of Afghanistan is the guarantor of our victory! [applause]

Long live revolutionary, proud, free and independent Afghanistan! [applause]

AFP: THREE AFGHAN GROUPS ANNOUNCE UNION IN CAIRO

NC250658 Paris AFP in English 0633 GMT 25 Dec 80

[Text] Cairo, 25 Dec (AFP)--Three fghan rebel movements have united, their chiefs announced here in an interview in the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM. Muhammad Bani Muhammadi, head of the Afghan Revolutionary Movement, Sadiqullah al-Mujahid, head of the National Front to Safeguard Afghanistan, and Ahmad al-Jilani, head of the National Islamic Front, came here for Egypt's "Day in Favour of the Afghan People." They also appealed to other anti-Soviet movements to join their union to struggle more effectively against "the occupier."

DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. HOSTAGES, NEGOTIATIONS

Christmas Service

LD251144 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1108 GMT 25 Dec 80

[Text] According to a PARS report, Christmas eve ceremonies were held for the American hostages in their place of residence. The deremonies on the eve of the birth of His Holiness Christ, may God's peace by upon Him, for the hostages were conducted by three Iranian clergymen and the pope's representative in Tehran.

During these ceremonies, which lasted from 2230 until 0400, presents, letters and Christmas cards sent for the hostages were delivered to them.

According to the same report, tonight a similar ceremony will be held for the three hostages who are being kept in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Algerians Visit Hostages

LD261124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 26 Dec 80

[Text] According to a PARS dispatch, the Algerian Government's representatives last night visited the place where the 52 U.S. spy hostages are being held and talked to all of them. The Algerian delegation also participated last night in the Christmas celebrations held by the three spy hostages at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Algiers on Meeting

LD262047 Algiers Domestic Services in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Dec 80

[Text] Algerian Ambassador to Iran Abdelkarim Ghraieb has made a statement to the Iranian news agency PARS in which he affirmed that all the Americans who are detained in Iran enjoy good health and live under very good conditions. Brother Ghraieb met with the Americans detained last night on the occasion of the Christmas celebrations.

In this connection the two Algerian envoys--brother Reda Malek, Algerian ambassador to the United States, and brother Muhammad as-Saghir Mustafay, governor of the Algerian Central Bank--have left for Washington where they will meet with officials of the U.S. State Department. It was learned that brother Abdelkarim Ghraieb will leave Tehran today for Washington to join them. It is noteworthy that the contacts between the parties concerned in the issue of the American detainess have not stopped, despite some statements made by some responsible quarters in the U.S. administration in which they have expressed reservations with regard to meeting the Iranian demands, which include: unfreezing Iranian assets in U.S. banks and returning the wealth of the former shah to the Iranian people.

Ghraieb Interview

LD270940 Tehran PARS in English 0737 GMT 27 Dec 80

[Text] Tehran, 27 Dec, (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--Mr Abdelkarim Ghraieb, ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and Mr Ben Hussein, the director of the international department of the Foreign Ministry of the Algerian Government, participated in an exclusive interview with PARS NEWS AGENCY's reporter in Tehran yesterday at 1215.

Mr Ghraieb and Mr Ben Hussein talked about their meetings with all the 52 American hostages. They met three spy hostages at the Foreign Ministry building of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at a Christmas ceremony held for them, and the other 49 American hostages at their residence in Iran.

Mr Ghraieb said to the PARS reporter that all the hostages were looking quite healthy since they were living in a very good condition. They were well nourished and were provided with necessary facilities.

Regarding the number of the participants in the Christmas ceremony, of which various and completely biased figures had been reported by news agencies, he said that we have the feeling that all the 49 hostages had participated in that ceremony.

Mr Ghraieb and Mr Ben Hussein, who arrived in Tehran on Thursday [25 December] are due to leave the city last (?night or today to) join other members of the delegation.

Speaking to the PARS reporter, Mr Ghraieb said he guessed that the United States would place its reply at the disposal of the delegation within three days.

Ghraieb AFP Interview

NC261205 Paris AFP in English 1157 GMT 26 Dec 80

[By Yves Heller]

[Text] Tehran, 26 Dec (AFP)--Forty-nine U.S. diplomats held hostage by Iran since November 4, 1979, and only recently reunited by their captors, talked "freely" yesterday with Algerian Ambassador to Iran Abdelkarim Ghraieb.

The hostages had been dispersed throughout the country following the abortive U.S. raid in April. The envoy also met with three other American diplomats who have been detained at the Iranian Foreign Ministry since the beginning of the affair.

Mr Ghraieb said, in an exclusive interview with AFP, that the 49 hostages, who were still being guarded by "Islamic students," were detained in a "comfortable" place in the "best conditions."

The Algerian ambassador said that the hostages had not been reunited "only for Christmas" but would apparently be kept together after the holidays.

Mr Ghraieb would not say where the hostages were being held but other sources indicated that they were in the Iranian capital.

The papal nuncio, Archbishop Annibale Bugnini, who celebrated Christmas mass for "25 or 30" of the hostages Wednesday night, told the press afterwards that he had not left Tehran so that he could see the detained diplomats.

Mr Ghraieb reported that the hostages appeared to be "in good health and satisfactory physical shape" and that their "morale was high," although they expressed concern "for their future."

Observers here noted that the Algerian envoy was the first foreigner to have met with all 52 of the hostages virtually since they were taken prisoner.

Mr Ghraieb, who arrived in Tehran from Algiers yesterday, said that he had been "asked by both sides (the United States and Iran)" to meet with the hostages.

He saw the three diplomats at the Foreign Ministry first and then the 49 other hostages "in their rooms, by groups or individually."

The envoy said that he had spent most of the night talking with the detainees.

According to the ambassador, the hostages did not appear to lack material necessities but were under stress, since "they are cut off from the outside world."

He did not indicate whether the hostages had access to radios. But he did say that "complaints" voiced by the diplomats had been partly satisfied by the Iranians at his request.

The hostages were particularly upset by the absence of mail, he reported. But they wrote letters to their families yesterday. Mr Ghraieb said that he would leave Tehran late today for Washington, taking the letters with him.

In addition to the letters, the envoy said that he was taking photographs and films of the hostages to their families in the United States.

Mr Ghraieb is one of three Algerian officials who have been acting as intermediaries in negotiations between Tehran and Washington over the release of the hostages.

Archbishop Bugnini reported that he had been taken blindfolded to the place where the hostages were being held. Mr Ghraieb said, however, that his eyes were not covered. The trip was made at night, he explained, and it was completely dark because of the blackout, a result of the war between Iran and Iran.

The ambassador said that he had been able to talk "freely" with the hostages and those who asked to do so could talk with him separately.

As to the captives' nourishment, Mr Ghraieb said that he could attest that at least during his visit they were served "good" meals. He added that they had the possibility of varying their menus at their request.

Some of the hostages were "playing cards" when he entered their rooms, Mr Ghraieb said, and several of the detainees offered him cigars, which would indicate that they were being reasonably supplied with necessities and some amenities.

Raja'i: Rights, Not Blackmail

LD242212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2048 GMT 24 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Tonight the Council of Ministers [shora-ye vaziran] held a session chaired by Prime Minister Mr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i. At the end of the relatively long session the prime minister took part in an interview with the correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and commented on the issues discussed at this session. The prime minister said: We are fighting the great world imperialism and we are proud that our youth intend to rub the noses of mercenaries like Saddam in the dirt, and soon, God willing, we will witness the results of their efforts. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin Raja'i recording] As you know, America, after receiving our logical reply in connection with the hostages held by our nation, began to show reactions which had marks of conspiracy all over. We expected this, and when I was in New York I announced this and sent a message to the hostages' families to the effect that America is not willing in any way to solve this issue nor does it take pity on the lives of these 52.

The United States is following a political path and finds itself defeated here, so it is looking for ways to compensate for this defeat. Well now, Christmas is here and the United States is making a lot of noise complaining that Iran is blackmailing it, although we have repeatedly explained that blackmail is definitely out of the question, and that with regard to the issue of the hostages held by our nation we only intend to prove that we have been subjected to aggression by America, that America has interfered with our domestic affairs, and we have shown this to all the world.

Well, when we did this America froze our assets, that is to say, our direct reserves in that country, and as to the sums transferred to America by its servant the shah, it agreed to guard them and permitted the companies which were dealing with us to file claims against us, whereas the United States was directly responsible for this issue. What we say now is that the United States should give back our monies. This is not blackmail. If in this connection a company has filed a claim against us, even though the fault lies with the United States, we should not pay the penalty for it. The goods we had purchased and paid for should have been delivered. If they have not done so they should [word indistinct].

In order to show the world our good intention in trying to find a solution to this problem, in order to show that our intentions were not in any way materialistic in this connection and that we took this action to claim our rights of freedom in the world, we said that we do not even require these sums to be paid to us by America. Rather, the cash reserves belonging to us, over which there is no argument, should be given to Algeria and the United States should give guarantees in connection with the sums the exact amount of which is not known. This in no way constitutes blackmail and our nation and all the right-seeking nations of the world know well that America had to show such a reacion. This proves the analysis of our oppressed revolutionary people that America does not intend to solve the issue of hostages in any way. Now it will probably take advantage of Christ's birthday and will present itself as a humanitarian government to the world and say that it does its best to save the 52 hostages held by the Iranian nation but in return they ask for money, blackmail money. Surely, the right-seeking, free, aware and independent nations of the world are able to see the treacherous plots hatched by the imperialists. [passage omitted referring generally to acts of groups who help counterrevolution by creating divisions among the people] [end recording]

Raja'i 27 Dec Press Conference

JN281839 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1745 GMT 28 Dec 80

[Text] Prime Minister brother Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i met in the Foreign Ministry yesterday afternoon with the ambassadors of foreign countries in Tehran, and with Iranian and foreign reporters, to explain the Iranian stand on the hostages issue. The prime minister delivered a speech in which he welcomed the ambassadors and correspondents and thanked them for attending.

In his speech, brother Raja'i said: Our country, which is an Islamic revolutionary country, differed with America and the imperialist countries following the detention of 52 members of the former U.S. Embassy as hostages. Many documents have been seized which prove the spying activities of many of these hostages. When the Iranian people managed to make their voice heard [words indistinct] world public opinion and succeeded in finding [words indistinct] pertaining to the spying activities of the former U.S. Embassy and its staff, they set conditions for the release of all of the hostages, with the exception of one condition pertaining to the procedures taken by America against our people following the detention of the hostages.

The second condition contained the political aspect: namely, America's pledge not to interfere in our country's domestic affairs. After the proclamation of the Iranian reply to America, America adopted its permanent course and began political propaganda.

We proposed the simplest solutions to the most complicated problems. However, America began propaganda and desperate attempts [words indistinct] does not want to solve the hostage issue.

Addressing the participants, brother Raja'i said: You all can testify that visits are taking place in the area and agreements that had been postponed for various reasons are being concluded. Furthermore, agreements are being concluded with the agent Iraqi regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

America has entered the war against the Islamic Republic of Iran in a manner more open than at any time in the past. The American Government has one of three choices. The first choice is that which we have proposed: that it give a guarantee to Algeria regarding the points of difference and return all funds belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The second choice is that it return the wealth of the Iranian people in regard to matters where there are no differences. In matters where there are differences, the hostages will stay in Iran until the American Government succeeds in solving these differences, with a legal reference that is acceptable to both sides.

The third choice that I am announcing now is that all liberated peoples in the world are looking at America and the families of the hostages with anxiety. These proples should know that the road adopted by America for itself is that of plotting, interfering and cooperating with Saddam in the war against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It is true that America is a big power and the arch-Satan. However, the American Government should know that our Muslim revolutionary people are prepared to defeat America once again. This is our heroic people's determination.

At the end of his speech, brother Raja'i said: I hope you will not forget to give the issue of the Iraqi aggression, which has led to the killing of 30,000 people from both sides, the same degree of importance that you are attaching to the hostage issue. Our people, who are waging a war against Saddam and against the Eastern and Western forces that are helping the agent Iraqi regime in one form or another, are a victorious people. I wish you would convey these facts again to world public opinion.

REUTER Cited on Washington Talks

JN280930 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Dec 80

[Text] REUTER reports that U.S. and Algerian officials have arranged a meeting at the State Department in Wasington today--an extraordinary weekend meeting--to discuss Iran's request for $24 billion as a guarantee for releasing the 52 U.S. hostages.

The U.S. side, led by Warren Christopher, assistant secretary of state, and the Algerian side, led by Abdelkarim Ghraieb, Algerian ambassador to Iran, held talks for 9 hours yesterday. They, however, declined to comment on their talks.

It is worth mentioning that brother Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, had informed the diplomatic corps in Tehran that if the United States refuses to respond to Iran's request for the mentioned financial guarantees, the issue of the hostages will continue for a long time.

Nabavi Interview

LD261659 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 26 Dec 80

[Interview in "Friday With Officials" program with Behzad Nabavi, minister of state in charge of executive affairs, by unidentified correspondent who asks questions phoned in from listeners--live]

[Excerpts] We have informed you, dear listeners, that on the Voice of the Islamic Republic every Friday at 1600 [1230 GMT] we have a live program entitled "Friday With Officials."

Our guest this week is Mr Behzad Nabavi, who as you know is minister of state in charge of executive affairs and supervisor of the economic mobilization headquarters. Since the day the hostages were handed over to the government, responsibility for them also has been assigned to him. Mr Nabavi is also the government spokesman as well, but today he will not be talking to us as the government spokesman.

[Question] There is a question about Reagan's election, its effect on the world, and whether Reagan will be able to determine America's future movements in any way.

[Answer] This is one of the things I will answer as an individual and give you my personal opinion, which is not connected with the positions I hold. Generally, the thinking that there is a basic difference between Reagan and Carter is wrong. You see, Reagan is an actor by profession, Mr Carter is another actor; in reality oppressive governments in the world, the superpowers, follow certain policies under any circumstances and appoint someone to implement these policies who becomes the actor on the stage. Reagan's stance does not differ greatly from Carter's. Their stances in fact are not personal stances; they just implement America's policies in the world. America's policies would not change. Reagans and Carters have a special role to play. Reagan is a gunslinger when he enters the arena; Carter wears a smile. This is not because of personal differences between Carter and Reagan; when America's foreign policy is to be changed, one of these people plays their part.

All the noise and challenges thrown out by Reagan have not been taken up by anybody. America is not capable of doing anything more than what it has done. As the imam stated: "America cannot do a thing." It makes no difference to us whether Reagan is in power or Carter. Which one is worse? This means that whatever of the [word indistinct] this great Satan could do in connection with us, it did and continues to do. It was during Mossadeq's time that they said if the Republicans came to power there would be a coup, while if the Democrats stay in power there would not be one. Now at present our army is in a position that there is no question of a coup d'etat. If such a thought entered anyone's head, those under his command will take care of him.

[Question] Because we mentioned at the beginning of the program that since the hostages were handed over to the government you, Mr Nabavi, have been responsible for them, our dear listeners and compatriots have submitted some questions. They have asked whether White House spokesman Jody Powell has stated that it is not possible for us to make Iran understand this issue, and whether the Western mass media and press are trying to present Iran's demand for the return of Iran's wealth and property as seeking ransom. What is your view on this?

[Answer] We have explained this several times, both myself and our brother, Mr Raja'i. I will explain again that America thought it could pull the wool over our eyes and by having Carter hand over 100 pages of paper to the Algerian Government, we would let the hostages go and would forget our claims to our wealth which is frozen there.

We told them that you have verbally accepted the conditions set by the Islamic Majlis; why don't you give us a guarantee. When we release the 52 hostages we will not be able to use 100 pages of paper. We need acceptable guarantees from the great Satan, and we can not bargain with the wealth of the nation [beyt ol-mal] like this. This is the situation as it stands. Mr Jody Powell has not been asked to give us his paternal wealth. We are asking for the wealth of our nation to be returned. If they can not do this, then naturally we cannot implement the conditions ratified by the Islamic Majlis, set the hostages free, and we will be forced to carry out our [word indistinct] duty.

Further Nabavi Comments

LD280605 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0435 GMT 28 Dec 80

[Excerpts] According to our morning correspondent, a Cabinet [cabineh] session was held last night chaired by Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i. Reports by the services and technical commissions were discussed and the bills that had been sanctioned by these commissions were granted final approval.

At the end of this session, Behzad Nabavi, minister of state and Cabinet spokesman, in an exclusive interview with our correspondent, spoke of the issues discussed during last night's session, the issue of the hostages, the effects of the government sessions [as heard] and government aid to the war victims. We draw your attention to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Nabavi, please tell our listeners about the issues discussed during last night's Cabinet session.

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted on discussions of relief work for war victims] A report was submitted and discussed in connection with trips of Cabinet members to European countries in order to explain Iran's stance vis-a-vis the Iranian nation's hostages.

[Question] Mr Nabavi, you referred to the issue of the hostages. According to news agencies, after seeing the film of the Christmas ceremonies and also the reports submitted by Algerian officials, Carter announced that the hostages are not being maltreated in Iran. Would you please, as minister state for executive affairs, tell us how you interpret Carter's remarks?

[Answer] I do not know what Carter announced. However, I know that the Western and Zionist mass media started an extensive propaganda campaign against Iran after the United States received Iran's reply. They are attacking Iran in various forms. For example, rumours are being spread in Iran that we are losing the war, the reason being that we have not given the desired reply. The media and U.S. officials have termed Iran's just demands as extortion. I have no knowledge of the matter that you mentioned. [passage omitted on housing for the war victims] [end recording]

Beheshti on Possibility of Trial

LD242028 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 24 Dec 80

[Text] Ayatollah Dr Beheshti, the chief justice of the Supreme Court of Iran, today attended a weekly press conference and answered the questions put to him by reporters.

Regarding the possibility of the court trial of the American hostages, Dr Beheshti said that the Supreme Judicial Council will name an appropriate court if such a trial is to held.

On the question of American claims on the three Iranian islands in the Hormuz Straight, the chief justice of the Supreme Court said: The American Government has claims over all parts of the world and Iran will give a suitable response when the necessity requires.

Regarding Iran's assistance to the Iraqi combatants fighting against the Iraqi regime, Dr Beheshti said that the Muslim combatants of Iraq have intensified their activities inside this country and Iran feels responsible toward all those who fight for their liberty. He added: The Iraqi Muslim combatants are enjoying the support of not only Iran, but also all the freedom-loving people of the world.

AFP on Beheshti Comments

NC241124 Paris AFP in English 1220 GMT 24 Dec 80

[Text] Tehran, 24 Dec (AFP)--The United States Embassy hostages would be tried like any Iranian citizen if they were put in the dock, the head of the Iranian Supreme Court Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti said today.

"Each of their crimes will be judged according to the Islamic Constitution", he told a press conference, adding that the Supreme Court would decide if it became necessary which tribunal would hear the case.

In any event, the ayatollah said, the hostages would not be court-martialled.

Ayatollah Beheshti repeated earlier declarations by leading Iranians that the government would not modify further its conditions for the release of the hostages, who have been held since November 4 last year.

The ayatollah, who leads the ruling Islamic Republican Party, told an American journalist that he sent his best wishes for Christmas to "the American masses."

"I hope they will try to step up the universal combat against imperialism in all its forms, in the West as well as the East, and encourage the well-being and freedom of humanity," he added.

Kho'ini Calls for Trial

BK250815 Hong Kong AFP in English 0809 GMT 25 Dec 80

[Text] Tehran, 25 Dec (AFP)--The assistant speaker of the Iranian parliament today called on the government to start preprations for a trial of the 52 American hostages, blaming the United States for delays in answering Iranian demands.

In an interview in the TEHRAN TIMES, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Musavi Kho'ini added that hostages would be tried according to Islamic principles and not international law.

Iran was not required to furnish the United States with details on the detention of the hostages, the Hojjat ol-Eslam, Ayatollah Ruhollah khomeyni's representative to the militants who seized the U.S. Embassy more than 13 months ago, declared.

Overnight, two Roman Catholic priests and three pastors had conducted a Christmas service for the hostages here, after being taken blindfolded to a "comfortable room" which also contained gifts for the hostages.

Further Details

BK251027 Hong Kong AFP in English 1019 GMT 25 Dec 80

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'ini said the U.S. hostages would be divided into two groups during the trial. One group would be tried on spying charges, while the other group would answer charges of having incited plots aimed at "creating a bloodbath," according to the newspaper.

One of the hostages would also be tried for the alleged rape of a young Iranian woman, while others would also face charges of destroying secret embassy documents, according to the Hojjat ol-Eslam, who is head of the special parliamentary committee that set down the conditions for the hostages' release.

The interview follows a statement yesterday by Supreme Court President Ayatollan Mohammed Beheshti that the hostages would be tried like any other Iranian citizen if they go before the courts.

Msgr Bugnini said four other Iranian clergymen officiated at the Christmas cermonies that lasted from 10:30 p.m. Thursday to 4 a.m. today, though PARS reports said three Iranian clergymen accompanied the Papal nuncio. All four, another Roman Catholic priest and three pastors, were blindfolded en route, reports said.

Similar services are to be held tonight for the three Americans in the Foreign Ministry, including former U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires Bruce Laingen, government spokesman Admad Azizi said.

PARS said that a film of the services made by Iranian television showed that the hostages were "apparently in good spirits." Television spokesman said the film could be broadcast tonight in Iran.

Msgr Bugnini said the room contained gifts for the hostages, mainly warm clothing, blankets and cakes.

It was the Papal nuncio's third visit with the hostages since Islamic militants stormed the U.S. Embassy building onNovember 4 last year.

He said he found them tired, but in correct physical shape and good spirits.

Friday Sermon

JN261030 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0917 GMT 26 Dec 80

[Friday sermon by Tehran Friday Imam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i at Tehran University mosque in Arabic-live]

[Excerpt] Reports indicate that the downfall of Iraq's mercenaries and their ill-fated effects is imminent. Hence the oppressor's leaders are now working hard to achieve their dreams and illusions by other dirty means. The oppressors have waged wide-scale campaigns to bring pressure to bear on the Islamic Republic to justify any crimes they may commit. It is likely that these crimes may include a military intervention like the Tabas operation. [sentence indistinct]

It is regrettable and sad to see that well over 15 Arab stations have been dragged into the oppressors' current and become a springboard for imperialism.

We hereby declare to the world peoples--and you Arab brothers should convey and publish this declaration--that the occupation of the den of espionage and the captivity of the U.S. spies was meant to convey our protest against the sheltering of the executioner shah to the world, particularly the U.S. people. But the U.S. Government's arbitrary behavior and [words indistinct]. We have always declared our readiness to hand over the hostages in return for compensation of the losses caused to us by the United States and for a pledge not to intervene in our affairs. The United States has never cared about the fate of the hostages in their capacity as individuals, but looks on them as tools, exploiting them to exercise its oppressive hegemony. The United States is now exerting all its efforts to place obstacles and problems in our way. O Arab brothers, you are responsible for conveying this fact to everyone.

Crowd Calls for Deadline

NC281009 Paris AFP in English 0955 GMT 28 Dec 80

[Text] Tehran, 28 Dec (AFP)--A large crowd of worshippers which gathered today in Tehran square to observe the Shi'ite Moslem feast of Arba'in called on the government to fix a deadline for Washington to reply to Iran's conditions for releasing the United States Embassy hostages.

Their resolution, reported by Tehran radio, stipulated that if no answer came by the required time the hostages should be put swiftly and conclusively on trial.

The radio broadcast the text of the resolution just after a speech by Jalaleddin Farsa, a prominent member of the majority Islamic Republic Party.

TEHRAN: U.S. MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN DEMANDS, TRIAL

LD260006 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2300 GMT 25 Dec 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] With the final terms set by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the hostages, once again the tone of Western propaganda media against the Islamic Republic of Iran and in particular the proposed terms has become hostile.

A highly interesting point is that Mr Edmund Muskie, the U.S. secretary of state, has said that the U.S. President has no authority to unfreeze the Iranian assets. The question is: If the U.S. President has no authority to unfreeze our assets and return the plundered property of our Muslim nation, then how is it that he had the authority to freeze them in the first place? How is it possible for a country's central bank to be unaware of the amount of deposits of a prominent person like the deceased Mohammad Reza Shah? Is a request for the return of a nation's legal right considered to be a lawsuit? A nation has been plundered for 50 years by colonialism and for 25 years by the U.S. plunderers. Are we to be considered to be pursuing a lawsuit or you who [words indistinct]

At any rate, the revolutionary government, the Islamic Consultative Assembly and our combative nation have stated their final reply with regard to (?reducing) the crimes of the spies. As for the imperialists and Zionists, the press and their associated radios are not big enough to influence our revolutionary government by creating an artificial atmosphere; for they saw that all their plots and clamor after the occupation of the spy nest were of no avail. We have seen clearly over the past year and a few months that America and Carter have failed to do anything.

Now our revolutionary government has given its final say. It is now up to America to choose between submitting to the logical demands made by our revolutionary nation or to the trial of the spies and divulging the nature of its embassy staff. Our final reply was decisive, clear, specific and complete.

TEHRAN ON REACTION TO HOSTAGE CONDITIONS

LD241510 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1136 GMT 24 Dec 80

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Following the announcement of the Iranian conditions for the release of the American hostages, once again the devoted newspaper and colonial radios of the world have joined voices with various groups and Edmund Muskie, the U.S. secretary of state, and have begun attacking, vilifying and shouting obscenities at Iran.

Before we review the positions of an articles published by the newspapers of the imperialist countries, it is worth investigating their previous record leading up to this condemnation and to the conditions proposed by Iran:

Following the occupation of the American den of espionage and the taking of the known spies hostage, and after the exposure of some of the American lackeys, such as Yazdi and Amir-Entezam and other [words indistinct] connected with America, and while the deprived of the world were supporting this revolutionary action, the Western propaganda systems began their propaganda attacks to prepare the ground for the economic blockade. At that time, Imam Khomeyni announced Iran's conditions for leniency in punishing the hostages as being the return of the deceased shah and the wealth plundered by him, the return of frozen Iranian assets, an international guarantee of noninterference in the internal affairs of Iran and cancellation of the claims of American [word indistinct] toward the Iranian assets.

Following the announcement of the Iranian conditions and the annihilation of the fugitive shah, Imam Khomeyni gave the Islamic Consultative Assembly the task of determining the final fate of the spy hostages. Eventually, around 2 months ago, despite political, economic and even military pressure during the past year and at the height of the chaos created by the affiliated groups inside the country--such as the hypocrites and Baghdad radio--the Islamic Consultative Assembly categorically announced Iran's final conditions, that is, the return of the deceased shah's wealth, the unfreezing of Iranian assets, America's international guarantee not to interfere in Iran's affairs and the annulment of the claims of pillaging U.S. companies to Iranian assets, in return for mitigation regarding the trial of the hostages.

The Majlis was preparing the final conditions in circumstances in which (?certain) groups, who had not only not welcomed the seizure of the den of espionage but had also opposed the revelation of statements exposing the spies, together with the deputies and personalities supported by them, began shouting: Yes, the hostages are going to be freed, the Majlis will compromise, and other calumnies like these. And [word indistinct] foreign news agencies and Western circles imagined that the war imposed by Iraq would force Iran to compromise and the American spies would be freed, without fulfillment of Iran's just claims. With the persistent decisiveness of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and after the announcement by the revolutionary Government of Iran of Iran's final conditions [words indistinct] for the release of the spies, and because of inefficiency of internal hypocrite groups in the country [words indistinct], the imperialist and Zionist press loudspeakers, on the orders of their American masters, joined voices to spread slime condemning Iran's [word indistinct] proposals.

The man who started these false rumors, spreading calumny, was once again Mr Edmund Muskie, the U.S. secretary of state, who most shamelessly announced that Iran's conditions of the unfreezing of (?monetary) assets and the return of the deceased shah's wealth were beyond the authority of the U.S. President. It is very interesting to return to what happened a year ago, to see how the same President of America, by using his special authority, was able to freeze Iranian assets in American banks through a single order.

A study of these two (?approved) American laws gives the best example of how U.S. laws are one-sided in favor of the plunderers, and show how the American President is used as a tool, for how come the freezing of the lawful assets of a deprived and recently liberated country is within the President's authority, but it is beyond his authority to unfreeze them? The answer is quite clear, because when around 80 pillaging U.S. companies, like (Anchekula)--a shareholder in Chase Manhattan--and other American American banks and capitalists, have made new bags to loot Iranian assets then Mr Carter and even Mr Reagan, the U.S. Congress and its Constitution are too insignificant to be able to do anything regarding the international thieves.

By looking at the united attack waged by the colonialist press and radios during the past few days, it becomes very clear how the Zionist and imperialist papers have, through calumny and vilification, condemned the Iranian demand as extortion. These newspapers are taking its right away from a nation which for the past 50 years has been plundered under the boots of colonialism and has been looted and trampled upon by the mercenaries of America for 25 years, a nation which now asks for a guarantee for the return of a hundredth of what it has lost.

The New York TIMES proposes to the U.S. Government, (?including) Reagan, the actor in comic films with the status of U.S. President, to stop any discussion and give an ultimatum to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is engaged in a war against the puppet servant of America. And the HERALD TRIBUNE, the American paper printed in Paris, and the DAILY TELEGRAPH of London have referred to Iranian (?claims) as abduction and (?extortion).

The Zionist papers of West Germany have gone so far with their flattery as to suggest that Reagan give an ultimatum to Iran to preserve his own popularity. And LE FIGARO addes that Carter's defeat in trying to free the hostages through the Tabas plot, the attempted coup d'etat and the Iraqi attack have emboldened Iran.

With a brief glance at the news spread by Western circles, all of whose articles are copied from one another, like the examples mentioned above, we cannot help but feel sorry for what happened to Carter--and pity Reagan for what lies ahead--how blandishments, flattery and the creation of bogeys made him lose touch with reality, and instead of learning from his crimes he was forced to commit other stupid acts, such as the intervention in Tabas, the coup d'etat plan and the provocation of his lackey Saddam; and through all these acts, Carter not only lost any vestige of prestige left to him, but proved to the world that America cannot really do a damn thing.

If the empty-headed editors of the New York TIMES paper, by closing their eyes to the existing realities of the world, are thinking that the U.S. ultimatum will have any effect, they must know that revolutionary Iran has heard many ultimatums during the past year. And if it was supposed to be frightened of ultimatums, then it would have never started the revolution and (?the trial and) execution of the grade one American servants.

Poor Carter, he too, 1 year ago, following the recommendations of the FRANKFURTER ALLEGEMEINE, committed some stupid acts, to boost his popularity, or so he thought; but these acts not only reduced his popularity, but led to him being kicked out of the White House. And how (?stupid) those people are, who instead of learning from the realities of history have waged war against the will of God. [passage indistinct]

Yes, the disgrace suffered by the democrats following their intervention in revolutionary Iran over the past 4 years is the best lesson. And even these puppet Western papers, at the time of the Iraqi attack on Iran and failure of this plot, wrote: Never attack the revolution.

Yes, if those in charge of the American Government imagine that by creating a false atmosphere they will be able to prepare the ground for another intervention in revolutionary Iran, or if they think that they can upset us by giving an ultimatum that they will intervene, they must know that our imam said 15 months ago: Let America not frighten us with intervention, we are men of war.

Our final remark is: The brave combatants of Iran have been waiting for an American invasion for the past year because the last grave of the American paper tiger has been dug in Iran. And this is the promise that the noble Koran gave to the Muslims 14 centuries ago, verily the weakest house is the house of the spider; and our nation is well aware of the weakness of imperialism.

KHOMEYNI SPEAKS ON RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL AFFAIRS

Address to Friday Imams

GF241536 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1050 GMT 24 Dec 80

[24 December speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni given to the congregation of Friday imams in Qom-recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I would like first of all to thank the eminent ulema, the brother Friday imams--the Sunnis and the Shi'as--for having gone to the trouble of coming here, and also the other brothers who are here, sitting uncomfortably or standing up. There are some matters that require attention although you yourselves know about them.

A matter that we all know about is that the greater and lesser satans, and those who wanted and still want to take control of every power and plunder the wealth of nations, have had strange plans for years. Unfortunately, many classes have been decadent. One of their alleged contentions has been that the clergy should not involve themselves in politics but must lead people in prayers and fast. Their business is in the mosques and homes--to pray in mosques and then rest at home. There was such a degree of propaganda that many had practically believed it and the involvement of clergy in politics has an insult to them. If they said that such and such a mullah was political, that was considered an insult. The people and even the clergy believed this. If a social matter or a national matter was discussed, some would say that we do not involve ourselves in politics. If a mullah discussed national politics he would be called a political one--and that is against the rules. This matter had so much propaganda attached to it both here and abroad that it could not easily be erased from people's minds. They wanted to isolate a great portion of the society, on which the society depended, and replace that portion with themselves. The political involvement of the individuals who lead the society on the road that is to the benefit of the society is proved in the stories of the prophet and has been mentioned in the Sasah al'Ibad and pilgrimage prayers. The holy prophet undertook the political leadership of the nation. I must say that political affairs is [word indistinct] for the clergy but their policies are different from the satanic policies. If we assume that a person can be found who would implement the right policies--not satanic or decadent policies--a president, government or system which would implement the correct policies to the benefit of the people, then this is only the dimension of the policies of the prophets and the holy men. This is the responsibility of the Islamic ulema. Human beings do not have one dimension--neither has society. Human beings are not simply animals which only think of eating. Satanic policies and correct policies, if they are available, direct the population in one dimension and that is the animalistic dimension; it is the sociomaterial dimension. This policy is only a part of the policies that Islam provides for the prophets and the holy men.

When it is said: Do not involve yourselves in politics, leave it to us, then your economic policies are also an animalistic policy [as heard]. Those who are decadent follow satanic policies, those who follow the correct path follow the policies that are concerned with the well-being and animalistic nature of man, with the welfare of this world, with the characteristic of this world, but of course the prophets have this world and the next, and the road to the next world is in this world. The prophets lead the people on this road and invite them to things that are to the benefit of the nation or the society. The prophets lead the people from the material to the spiritual, from the first to the last level--the highest level a human being can reach. The Islamic and clerical politicians, the prophets and the holy men have their jobs as politicians. Religion is the policy that moves people and makes them follow the true path. You gentlemen and all the nation must pay attention to the fact that we were so trained due to the propaganda of the plundering nations, so trained that we were separated from politics and we had no say in the social and political affairs of the people.

Those who wanted to do their duty toward the superpowers were holding the politics, the government and such things and were directing the people toward their goals, which were those of the superpowers--in other words, to take us into the arms of the East or the West. This policy is Satanic.

Supposing that they have any humane policies, it is nor more than one dimensional. The prophets were multidimensional and the clergy have inherited this. We must not and do not think that the great powers have left us alone. At the moment there is every trick being played to take you out of political activity, to prevent you from participating in social affairs and in the government. Yes, when I was in Najaf I said that the ulema are beyond being involved in executive affairs--but only when we have people who are faithful to Islam and act according to Islamic principles, not when there is no one who can or wants to act according to Islamic principles.

It is up to you, the Friday imams, and all the Friday imams in all the Islamic nations to awaken the people and make them understand that the melody being heard in all the Islamic countries that the ulema must not get involved in politics is a plot by the superpowers and implemented by those that are inside the countries. Do not listen to them and repeat it to the people so that they will understand that this is aimed at taking the clergy out of politics and making the clergy return to the state they were in when the former shah was in our country. Be aware and pay attention to this. The future generations must also pay attention to this so that their road will be the one that the Muslims have now found and they should not lose it. [chants of "God is great," "Khomeyni is the leader" and "Death to hypocrites and Saddam"]

The other matter that follows these matters is directed to the clergy, wherever they are--the Sunni, Shi'a or other spiritual leaders: Islam today has been entrusted to our nation and you who are its exponents and are enjoying positions of preeminence. We are all guardians of Islam today. The entire nation, from government employees to the forces, without exception, are responsible in front of God almighty for this trusteeship. This Islam has been entrusted to us. If we commit treason against this trust, God forbid, then this is a sin, and it is not clear whether we will be forgiven for this sin; it is different from other sins.

The gentlemen should take care that in the organizations such as the revolution guards, the army, the committees and the courts and all these organizations that were formed after the revolution, there are no impure satans. Some people have penetrated them and certain individuals have penetrated their ranks and, through this penetration do things to make the clergy or the guards or other people either fight each other or become isolated. At the moment I receive over 100, sometimes 200 or 300 letters of complaint--even though I am a nobody. The complaints are about all the organs. I do not want to say that they are all correct, but there is a matter of a plot to create complaints. This plot starts from cab and bus drivers and so on, and enywhere there is a group of people, there are some individuals who start and spread rumors.

They want to make the Islamic republic--which is formed by the government, the Majlis and other organs--fearful and they want to tell the world that the Islamic republic is the same as the imperial regime, the same as the imperial regime. They say that the Islamic Republic takes people's land and orchards and that no one interferes. They say that these seven-man groups, who have been told by various announcements and even by the government not to interfere in unlawful matters, continue to pay no attention. They say that people's property is confiscated without reason. You must be aware of this and pay attention to this.

We must all act before these opportunists and traitors who want to bring this country back to the old days, become victorious and take advantage. You must do these things yourselves and find unprejudiced, well-informed and important people to go to these places and listen to people's complaints.

Speech to Mashad Inhabitants

LD250656 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Dec 80

[Excerpt] A large group of Mashad's inhabitants yesterday were received by Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran [a mosque near Khomeyni's residence north of Tehran].

Addressing the audience, Imam Khomeyni said: I am asking all of you and the entire Iranian nation to maintain your calm, because we need calm. At the start of this meeting a member of the Islamic Association, in a brief speech on behalf of the audience, requested the nation's imam to visit Mashad. We draw your attention to the text of Imam Khomeyni's speech at this meeting.

What I have to say in your presence is this: that the superpowers realize that this nation achieved its victory through unity, solidarity and with reliance on God Almighty, thus endangering the superpowers' interests. The superpowers will not spare any effort and will resort to something new everyday to create differences in order to disrupt our nation's unity. We have to open our eyes and ears and remain vigilant and avoid fanning differences. Our nation and any group which realizes that differences make our country vulnerable, and groups who have consideration and care for Islam, the Islamic nation and the Islamic country, ought to make the effort that this unity not be harmed. God Almighty forbid that our enemies succeed in creating differences among our people here and there--this would mean that they have achieved their ends and wishes.

What is more important today than anything else is quiet and calm. Today we are involved in a war as well as internal sabotage. Our enemies, perhaps, will attach more importance to these differences than the military offensive--that is because internal disputes will make us vulnerable from within, eliminating ourselves by our own hands. We must bear this in mind in order to prevent infiltration of spiteful elements into our society which create disputes.

If, God forbid, the spiteful elements embark upon creating disputes, you and our nation who are both awake, advise them and do not let them achieve their aims. We need quiet. I am asking all of you, friends, and the people of Iran to maintain calm. Should there be some persons with the intent of creating disputes for certain aims, you should maintain the quiet with wisdom and tact, and avoid a situation in which we require quiet [as heard], God forbid differences be created.

We ought to solve all our problems wisely and avoid taking action which would lead to creating noises and more differences. Should a self-interested person decide to take action as a result of which differences will be created, our duty today will be to maintain calm and silence. I pray to God Almighty for your health and the prosperity of all of you and the entire people of Iran, and pray for all those who are trying to create differences to be guided in the right direction.

Address to Disabled, Wounded

LD251230 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Dec 80

[Text] A group of disabled of the revolution and another group of combative youth, who are volunteers on their way to the vattlefronts, were received by imam of the nation in Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran at lunchtime today.

At the start of this audience, the members of Fajr-e Eslam sang the special martyrs anthem and then the imam of the nation made a speech, which we now present:

[Begin Khomeyni recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. When I witness these scenes, see these (?faces) with firm resolve and determined youth, although I (?believe in them) they make me sorry. I (?believe in the youth who is so brave), who sacrifices all he has for the sake of God and welcomes death with open arms. This is unprecedented in history, and if we can find another example it is the era of Islam; since that time there have been no examples of young men like you. I am sad, however, because our dear young men who are needed to serve our nation and Islam have been either martyred or disabled at the hands of bandits. This is a cause for deep sorrow.

Another cause fo sorrow is to see that some deviant groups and individuals who support the superpowers are trying to bring back the previous era, and those who are in search of power are trying to ignore our invalids and the blood of our martyrs and serve their superpowers, or take advantage of them to gain power. They want to tread in the blood of our youth to serve America or the Soviet Union. How is it possible not to become sad when I see some individuals who use the blood of martyrs to gain power? Those who use the blood of you, the youth and the disabled, as means of satisfying their desires for gaining power, are devoid of humanity; they are animals in the form of human beings. Those who at the time of war, when our armed forces, our corps and all the nation are engaged in battle, are thinking of ways of gaining power for their own cliques, they are not classed as human beings, they are animals in human form.

You see how these deviant groups have now entered every corner of our country and are hatching plots and engaged in banditry. Of course, both their insurgence and plotting are ineffective against our nation and our armed forces, but it is a cause for sorrow to see these (?so-called) human beings using the blood of our martyrs as a means of gaining power. They want to trample on the graves of our martyrs and achieve power. It is a pity that some human beings are so temporal and (?selfish). Our youth are sacrificing their lives, along our borders and around the country, to safeguard the Islamic republic, and those who believe neither in Islam nor in the Islamic republic are seeking to gain power from the blood of these youth. I give all of you, my dear ones--the army personnel, the guards corps, the personnel of the gendarmerie and the nation--[word indistinct], this good news that victory is yours. [shout of "God willing" from the crowd] Victory is with right. I have said many times before that you are victorious whether you kill or are martyred.

Those of you who have been in the battlefields and are now disabled, I am sorry for you; you are also victorious; from the standpoint of Islam you are victorious. In the eyes of Almighty God you are victorious [word indistinct]. I beseech God to accept you [word indistinct] best rank of the imam of the era, may God's peace be upon him; and may God give you the same reward as that given to the army of Islam which was fighting with the prophet of God. It also (?sacrificed) what it had in the service of Islam and the prophet of God, and you are also doing the same service. There is no difference between you and those people who fought with the prophet during his conquests and were martyred, you are the same. You also gave yourselves for the sake of Islam, God and his prophet, and some of you were martyred, and some were disabled. All of you are victorious. [Shouts of "God willing"] In a country where all the strata are so well-prepared for sacrifice, victory will come, and may God bestow health and reward upon you; and may God grant us vigilance to follow your steps. May God's peace, mercy and benedictions be upon you all. [end recording]

Speech to Khuzestan Arabs

LD262316 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1115 GMT 26 Dec 80

[Speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni to Arabic-and Persian-speaking Khuzestan tribesmen and members at the Islamic Councils of Dasht-e Azadegan and Susangerd, at a Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran, Tehran, 26 December--recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. You, dear friends and honorable brothers, who have come from the battle zones, welcome. May God bestow success upon you and may he stay the hands of tyrants from our country. [shouts of "God willing" from the crowd]

Major powers have been hatching plots to dominate the Muslim nations, usurp their resources and plunder their wealth. These major powers were planning for years. One of their biggest plans was the issue of nationalism. Islam has come to unite all the nations of the of the world, the Arab, the 'Ajam [non-Arabs], Turks [as heard] and Persians, and make a great nation in the world, called the nation of Islam, so that those who plan to dominate these Islamic governments and the Islamic centers cannot succeed because of a great gathering which will result from such a union between the Muslims of various tribes.

The plan of the major powers and their agents in the Islamic countries is to separate these Muslim strata who were made brothers by God Almighty; the fraternity of the believers is stressed by God. They want to separate the Muslim strata and name them: The Turkmen, the Kurds, the Arabs and the nation of Fars. In this way they intend to create animosity among them. This is exactly contrary to what Islam wants and opposed to the way of the noble Koran. All Muslims are brothers and equal. [shouts of approval] and none of us is separate from the other; and all of us must remain under the flag of Islam and under the flag of monotheism.

Those who create discord among the Muslims under the pretext of nationalism and factionalism are (?sons) of Satan, helpers of the major powers and opponents to the noble Koran. Thank God, the intention of the Iraqi Ba'thist Party was exposed. Their aim in claiming that they are supporters of Arab nationalism and Arab power was unravelled because they confronted the Arabs of Khuzestan more than others. Our Arab brothers suffered more killing at the hands of this hated party and blasphemous Saddam than did our 'Ajam brothers. If this corrupt and unfaithful man was claiming the truth, he would not have pounded Arab residential areas so badly, smashing women, children, old and young. If he was hostile to the 'Ajam, why did he harm the Arabs more? This exposes him; the issue is not that of Arab and 'Ajam, rather, it is the issue of being a lackey of superpowers. It is not that he is going to save the Arab nation, but what is he going to save them from? Is he going to save them from Islam?

The Arab nation was suffering under the satanic power of the superpowers through the corrupt government of Pahlavi for many years, the same as their non-Arab brothers, 'Ajams and Persians Following the victory of our revolution and the uprising of our nation, Arabs and 'Ajam and all other strata, the Pahlavi regime was dispatched to hell and all our nation came under the umbrella of Islam and the Islamic republic. Under the flag of the Islamic republic and the flag of "there is no God but Allah" no one has suffered and no one is going to, but deviant individuals, the servants of aliens, under different names, have had plans to separate various strata of this Islamic country, where Arab and 'Ajam, Persians and non-Persians live next to one another like brothers. They want to create discord among them and then destroy their wealth and trample Islam.

The hated Ba'th Party of Iraq proved that Iraq is not supporting the Arabs, rather, it is a supporter of major powers and a lackey of them. Therefore, this regime suppresses the nation of Iraq at home, too, and smashes it. The regime kills eminent Arab ulema, imprisons them, and all of the nation of Iraq, who are Arabs, are fed up with him.

There is no question of him wanting to do something for the Arabs; Arabs and 'Ajam both want to live under the umbrella of monotheism, safeguarded by the prophet of God. May God's benedictions and salutations be upon him and his scion. The Islamic republic intends to implement in all countries, what the prophet of God has ordered, and Iran was the first (?step). The Islamic republic wants to make it understood by all countries that the foundation of Islam is based on fraternity and equality, and [word indistinct] and all the Muslims are as one hand, vis-a-vis others. We want to make all nations understand that Islam is a religion of unity, fraternity and equality. In Islam, no segment of society is superior to another, except by virtue and obedience to the orders of Islam.

The Ba'th Party of Iraq, which orginates from the infidel 'Aflaq, proved that the issue of Arab nationality is not the point, rather, the issue of the interests of superpowers is involved. The issue raised is that they want all of our nations to be dominated by major powers. This was a futile dream that Saddam had cooked up in his head and he had said that he was going to destroy Iran within a week. In 1 week he was not even able to conquer Khuzestan, which is one corner of Iran, and he did not earn himself anything but shame and hatred, and now he is in the process of going mad and he is suffering from jangled nerves. He intends to achieve some kind of victory at any cost, even a partial victory. (?Our sons) everwhere, in Khuzestan and all its corners, all over the south and west of Khuzestan to Tehran, have risen and have stood against this person who claims that he is a Muslim but is not, and the person who claims that he is working for the Arabs but is telling lies. Our people punched him hard in the mouth [shouts of joy from the crowd] and, God willing, he shall be dispatched to the hell soon. [shouts of "God willing" from the crowd]

We sympathize with your sorrows. You are our brothers, wherever you might be, whether you live in Susangerd, Ahvaz or any other corner of Khuzestan, south and west. We share the grief that our brothers have suffered in Khuzestan, Kordestan, Susangerd and Dasht-e Azadegan, from where you gentlemen, my brothers, have come. We share your bereavement and suffering. This grieving belongs to all of us. It belongs to Islam and you are the children of Islam. Any hardship that you suffer hurts all Muslims and we all share it. Any crime committed by Saddam in Khuzestan is the same as betraying all of the Islamic countries, and we hope that all the Muslim nations will rise with care and vigilance to put in their place those corrupt tools who intend to bring all Islamic nations under the domination of superpowers.

I beseech God Almighty to grant victory to Islam and the Muslims, and health and prosperity to you brothers from Khuzestan and other brothers who have come here from the south and the west. I assure you that all your sufferings and martyrdom will be rewarded by God. Your reward is safeguarded by God and is not going to be forgotten, and thank God you are victorious and full of honor. [shouts of approval from the crowd]. May God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you all. [shouts of "God is the greatest" from the crowd]

28 Dec Speech

LD281525 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1059 GMT 28 Dec 80

[Speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni delivered on 28 December at his residence in Jamaran to "various classes of people," including "a great number" of inhabitants from Khorramabad, Pol-e Dokhtar and Kuhdasht in Lorestan, some local ulema and other clergy from the same areas, the Majlis deputy for Malavi, and a "large group of people representing families of Dezful martyrs" who gathered to mark Arba'in, the 40th day after the martyrdom of Imam Hoseyn--duration: 37 minutes, recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. There comes a time when one wonders what to say when facing such scenes.

I can see before me pictures of the martyrs, then I see families of martyrs here as well as a group of tribesmen from Khorramabad, including some Jewish children. Now, witnessing such scenes, what can I say? In this world, men, any man, whether great men, like prophets and imams, or men at any other level, undergo tests. Tests are a complementary part of man's existence; no man is able to live in this world without undergoing a test.

Man is being tested; he is not saved by simply claiming that he is a believer. Great prophets underwent tests. The great Abraham, peace be upon him, underwent a test when he was ordered to sacrifice his son. Other great prophets and saints also underwent tests. Imam Hoseyn, peace be upon him, also underwent a test and so did his disciples and children. As for us, all of us will be tested; all mankind shall be tested. Testing one through wealth, security, affluence, policy and so forth is greater than testing one through one's self, children and (?passion).

Many a time men claim to be believers, but when they undergo the test their claim is proved to have been merely a claim. There are men, too, who claim to support the oppressed, but when they undergo the test they fail. Then there are those who claim that if a war breaks out they would be the first to fight, but when the time comes they fail. You people from Dezful, Ahvaz and Susangerd passed your test with flying colors.

We were created by God and shall return to him. If we pass the test successfully, as did the prophets and saints, then we shall receive the promise given by God Almighty. God blesses such people and considers them among the guided disciples. This is an easier test than the tests given by God to the authorities. There are some presidents in the world who claim to respect human rights. Before being elected to office, these presidents claim support for freedom, love of mankind and human welfare, however, once elected, once God Almighty tests them, they fail to pass the test. Instead of supporting human rights they lead humanity to corruption; instead of supporting the weak, they kill them. Just as there is eternal blessing, forgiveness and life for the patient ones, there is for these people cardinal punishment and bad news; it is the news of coming disgrace. At any rate, they must undergo a test.

Simply claiming that I am with God; I am a liberal; I adhere to human rights; if I am elected as president, if I am elected as prime minister, as chieftain or tribal chief, then I shall treat people correctly and will invite the people to be free and enjoy welfare, and that I myself believe in them, such mere claiming is not acceptable. It is when the person is elected to the office in question that one ought to study his case to see whether he becomes someone like Carter or Imam 'Ali; whether he will treat the poor and the oppressed as Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him, did, or as Carter did; or as Stalin did. All these people made claims; Stalin, too, claimed that he wanted to work for the people and lead them as a free people, however, once he reached the office, he managed to annihilate people on a massive scale. The same claim is being made by Carter; he claims he wants freedom, welfare for mankind, that he is a philanthropist, however, as soon as he came to power he did what he did. As for Saddam, he too is making the claim that he wants to do this or that for the Arabs, however, once the moment of truth arrived, he caused the deaths of Arabs in Khuzestan, the like of which was not even done by the Mongols. If he is given the opportunity, he would do the same thing to Iraq and Iran which the Mongols did to Iran. Consequentely, one cannot simply claim that I am a mullah and, therefore, I love the people. It is when he acquires a position that he ought to be asked how he feels.

When the prime minister was living in fear and undergoing torture, he must have been nurturing the idea that this [the shah's] government is bad, that if I hold that position I would do such and such a thing, however, it is now that he is being tested.

It is now that all officials, the president, the prime minister, the Majlis speaker, the presidents of various courts, provincial chiefs, governors general and governors, are being tested. [shouts of "Allah is great, Khomeyni is the leader"] this is a test which is more important than the one applying to self, children and temporal aspects. [as heard]

Authorities must wake up; they must cease their hostility; they must take a look at these scenes; they must take a look at these young people who gave their blood for Islam; they must take a look at these young people who enabled them to reach the positions they now hold, and cease their hostility; they must declare a cease-fire. We are standing before God; all of us are standing before God; all of us shall die; all of us will be answerable for our deeds. Wake up, O you nation, wake up, O you government; You must all remain awake; all of you are standing before God. You are answerable tomorrow. Do not walk over the blood shed by our martyrs before casting a glance; do not fight each other for posts. All of us who keep cursing Saddam and disgrace him must be careful not to emulate him. We must look at ourselves. We must test ourselves in private; we should ask the question: When we come to office, are we to do what Saddam is now doing? Or are we to emulate the prophet's caliph?

Governing a society is the biggest test to which God Almighty can submit mankind. Governing, to be worthy of the name, to be worthy of a society which is giving its blood for Islam, for an Islamic country; a society sacrificing its brave young people, is one of the most difficult tasks; it is one of the most difficult tests. God forbid, if you want others to give their blood so that you may achieve higher positions. God forbid, lest there may exist such animals within you and you still believe yourselves to be men.

DEMONSTRATIONS HELD AT USSR, AFGHAN EMBASSIES

LD271728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Dec 80

[Text] According to a PARS report, the liberation front of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan, having staged a march today aimed at condemning the military occupation of Afghanistan by Russia on the occasion of its anniversary, left for the Afghan Embassy in Tehran after staging a demonstration outside the Russian Embassy at 1330. They attempted to enter the embassy premises but our brothers in the committee and the police thwarted their attempt.

The demonstrators, hurling stones, caused some minor damage to the Afghan Embassy. Then they chanted slogans condemning the Russian aggression and supporting the Islamic revolution. Some of their slogans included: Afghanistan is victorious; Russia is doomed. Death to Russia, death to Brezhnev; The people's party is doomed; The Parcham party is doomed; Islam is victorious, left and right are doomed. Afterwards, a 14-point resolution, formulated on the 27 December anniversary, was read out by an Afghan clergyman. The resolution was approved by the demonstrators by [word indistinct].

The march, which began at 0800 from Imam Khomeyni Square and in which several thousand, Muslim Afghan nationals took part, ended at 1415.

AFP Report

NC271045 Paris AFP in English 1043 GMT 27 Dec 80

[Text] Tehran, 27 Dec (AFP)--Demonstrators marched on the Soviet and Afghan Embassies here today to protest the year-old Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Some 100 Afghan refugees managed to enter the Soviet Embassy as several thousand others staged a sit-in on the street outside, but Iranian revolutionary guards said the refugees had been swiftly driven out.

The invaders broke windows and furniture, seizing a Soviet flag, which was later torn up and burned in the street. Revolutionary guards said that one person had been injured.

Other guards in the street fired shots in the air as a warning to the demonstrators, estimated by an eye-witness at about 3,000. Another witness said that ambulances were arriving outside the embassy.

An estimated 6,000 people later assembled outside the Afghan Embassy, which they pelted with stones. An attempt to enter the compound was reportedly thwarted, although a green Afghan resistance flag was raised in front of the mission.

Security forces fired into the air to try to frighten off the demonstrators, who were chanting anti-Soviet slogans such as "Death to the Russians" and "Brezhnev, assassin of the Afghan people."

A representative of the Afghan Islamic organization, which staged the protest to mark the first anniversary of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan, said that the incidents at the Soviet legation were unplanned.

USSR Protest

LD281724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Dec 80

[Text] According to a TASS news agency report, the Soviet Foreign Ministry today delivered a note of protest to the Iranian ambassador to Moscow regarding an attack on that country's embassy in Tehran on 27 December. According to the TASS report, the note says: Iranian officials had been informed of such an attack, but they took no effective actions to prevent it. The Soviet Foreign Ministry note also says: The lives of the staff of the Soviet Embassy were threatened, the Soviet Government was insulted and serious damage was inflicted on the embassy building. The Soviet Foreign Ministry further accused Iranian officials that only after persistent and frequent demands by the Soviet ambassador for the expulsion of the assailants from the compound of the Soviet Embassy in Tehran did they take any action. Further on in the note the Soviet Foreign Ministry, while protesting the violation of the diplomatic immunity of that country's embassy, called upon the Iranian officials to take immediate effective measures to prevent a repetition of such incidents.

Rafsanjani on Attack, U.S.

NC290749 Paris AFP in English 0721 GMT 29 Dec 80

[Text] Tehran, 29 Dec (AFP)--The speaker of the Iranian parliament, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, today accused the Soviet Union of being to blame for the attack by Afghan nationals on the Soviet Embassy here Saturday.

Speaking in parliament, he rejected Soviet protests about the incident and said the "revolutionary guards" had stepped in quickly to prevent the embassy being occupied.

He went on to criticise the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, which he described as "a great fault" and said it appeared to be an attempt by the Soviet leaders to "add another republic to their country".

The hojjat ol-eslam added: "Considering the path you (the Soviet Union) have chosen, how can you condemn the United States? What is the difference between you and them?

Hajjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani hit back at United States President-elect Ronald Reagan's description yesterday of the holders of the U.S. Embassy hostages as "barbarians".

Repeating that the hostages were spies he added: "In human history there is no one more savage than you, and in particular the Republican leaders. In every country where you have wanted to commit your crimes you have first treated their people like savages."

Iran considered its war with Iraq to be a struggle against the United States, the hojjat ol-eslam said.

Earlier he warned the Tehran government that it must carry out the mandate of parliament over the terms for releasing the hostages. Parliament could censure the government if the latter abandoned its demands for guarantees from Washington.

Iran was not demanding a ransom for the hostages but its "just rights", Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said. "If the Iranians were to aske compensation for all the wrong done to Iran since 1953 the vaults of the American Treasury would be empty."

MONTAZERI, BEHESHTI, OTHERS MEET WITH MAJLIS

LD241802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Dec 80

[Text] According to PARS, the great faqih [jurisconsult] His Great Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri, together with Dr Beheshti, president of the Supreme Court, member of the Supreme Judicial Council, the prime minister, the Council of Ministers, members of the council of the cultural revolution, Friday imams, officials in charge of revolutionary institutions, and the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy, this afternoon met with Majlis deputies at the Islamic Majlis building. At this meeting, the great faqih, His Excellency Ayatollah Montazeri, talked about problems in the revolution courts, war refugees and their welfare, land and agriculture, welfare of the disabled, bank interests, completion of the Cabinet, and the appointment of the minister of foreign affairs who, at this point in time, should have an active role in the remodelling of our embassies and publicizing and exporting the revolution. The Friday imams of Iranshahr, Baqqez and Torkman Sahra commented on article 12 of the Constitution and elections to be held in regions which as yet do not have a representative in the Majlis. Then Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i talked about the problems of the government with regard to the economy and also the reasons for the Cabinet not being complete. He then asked the Friday imams to cooperate with the government more than before.

Finally, Dr Beheshti said in a speech: The glorious Islamic revolution should continue in its authentic Islamic line and the young generation should maintain their presence in this continuation more than ever. The ceremonies of Friday prayers should be capable of attracting this generation to prayers; this is the responsibility of Friday imams. The president of the Supreme Court of the country added: I think they are one of the most influencial factors in the continuation of the revolution.

According to this report, the session ended at 1630 when the speakers, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani, addressed words of gratitude to those present.

SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL HOLDS SESSION 26 DEC

LD261714 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1638 GMT 26 Dec 80

[Text] According to PARS, the Supreme Defense Council met in Tehran tonight. During this session, the general situation on the battlefronts and ways of encountering the mercenary enemy were reviewed and discussed.

INTERIOR MINISTRY PROHIBITS MARCHES, STRIKES

LD242256 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2122 GMT 24 Dec 80

[Text] Minister of Interior Mahdavi-Kani today issued the following statement:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Noble and struggling nation of Iran: Under the present sensitive situation when our selfless soldiers and guards, faced with the foreign enemy, are fighting and sacrificing their lives, signs of enemy provocations are felt in the tight ranks of the nation. As Imam Khomeyni, may his shadow never grow less, has said, any kind of sitin and strike is in the interest of the enemy and in these crucial times is not at all forgivable.

The Ministry of Interior, inspired by the guidelines given by the leader of the revolution and as a mark of honor for the blood of the martyrs of the revolution, announces that any kind of march, sitin or strike without prior permission is forbidden and those violating this ruling will be handed over to the revolution courts to be dealt with according to wartime regulations. The Muslim nation and the dear compatriots are expected to be aware and to neutralize the enemy's treacherous plots and extend the necessary cooperation to police personnel in maintaining public peace. Police personnel and guards are duty-bound to keep a warchful eye on the situation and carry out their legal duties.

[Signed] The minister of interior, Mahdavi-Kani.

COURT WARNS AGAINST 'HEINOUS MOVES' DISTURBANCES

LD271252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1043 GMT 27 Dec 80

[Text] According to a Central News Bureau report, the court investigating wartime violations and crimes has issued statement No 8 as follows:

In His exalted name. Now that the heroic Muslim nation of Iran, by manifesting its epic resistance on the country's borders, is continuing its indefatigable fight against world arrogance headed by U.S. imperialism, in order to confront the Islamic Republic of Iran, domestic mercenaries and the hated regime's scum, receiving succor from Zionist media and U.S. minigroups and those following the U.S. line, have shamelessly paved the ground and drawn up plans for domestic clashes and disturbances in a corner of Tehran.

While condemning all the characters involved in fomenting these incidents, this court warns them to give up such heinous moves in these sensitive circumstances of the realm and calls on the dear youth building the future of this nation to practice vigilance and to identify the enemy fifth column's unholy moves.